

## From the Editor

Finally, a few days of sunshine that has helped chase away the Winter doldrums.

If you haven't been by the clubhouse lately, a few photos of the new tower on the north side of the building are featured in this month's issue. A minor snag was encountered when trying to operate one of the cable hoists - years of exposure to the elements have taken their toll on it. A solution is underway in the form of a new windlass or a repair kit for the old crank. Soon the mast will be sporting a new beam. Good work by the crew that made this project come together, and to the board for committing the funds for concrete and other items to bring this equipment into operation.

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the club meeting on March 27, several folks asked me to publish the website for the CHIRP software. The software - a programming tool for many types of programmable radios - was demonstrated by Randy WB4SPB and I during the meeting. More info about the software is available on the web at <http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home>

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A big tip of the ol' Stetson to Paul KF7PFU for his hard work as the clubhouse host on March 30. We were treated to waffles, eggs-to-order, and sausage links. A nice variation from the standard chili-dog last Saturday menu. David W7BAD was also a co-conspirator in this adventure. Many thanks, guys. It was fantastic.

\*\*\*\*\*

Club Dues for 2013 are now delinquent, and if you haven't yet renewed you most likely won't be listed in the printed roster booklet. Please help support your club by sending in your dues payment promptly.

Also, it looks like things may be shaping up a bit for field day planning and management. Soon the team will be soliciting band captains, operators, and other volunteers. Be sure to check the club website [w7dk.org](http://w7dk.org) for updates.

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**Board of Directors Meeting****6 March 2013**

The 6 March 2013 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. Vice President WY7V called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President	Gary McAdams WG7X
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board Member	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	James Mendenhall KE6WHN
Board Member	Glen Galati KA7BOJ

*There were 15 names on the Board attendance roster*

**Minutes:**

**The minutes of the 6 February 2013 Board meeting, as coordinated and corrected, were approved without objection.**

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** None reported

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** KD4VOM reports the following correspondence;

Utility and Phone Bills  
Bank Statements  
Newsletters  
QEX Experimenters Journal  
Membership Renewals  
Electric Radio  
QSL Cards

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob AD7LJ presented the February Financial Summary report. A copy is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:****Membership:** Larry KD4VOM

Membership renewal continues. Of our current membership, 247 are paid up or lifetime members and 69 have not yet paid 2013 Dues.

We currently have around 35 Lifetime, 16 Family, 120 Full, 113 Senior and 14 Promotional Members.

**Scholarship Research Project:** Mike Finnie  
W7MWF

Mike reviewed the Scholarship research, and the ARRL Northwest Division Director's presentation and offer at the last Board meeting.

**A motion was made seconded and passed to donate the Radio Club of Tacoma's Scholarship funds in the amount of \$3,225.78 to the ARRL Northwest Division's Scholarship Program.**

It was agreed that the transfer of funds should be made in person to Jim Fenstermaker K9JF at this year's SEAPAC convention at Seaside, Oregon.

**RCT Information Technology Committee:** – Randy Myers WB4SBP

Randy provided an IT Committee update report.

Randy reported on backup dock installation and other maintenance procedures

Randy reported on ongoing research into this project, and expects to present an update at the next Board meeting.

*A copy of the IT report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**Property Management:**

**Property Disposition:** Frank AC7JY presented the final property disposition list for this year's Mike and Key Hamfest to the Board Approval.

*Copies of the equipment disposition lists for this year's Mike and Key Hamfest attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**Property Disposition – Club member options:** Frank noted that the Last Saturday Club Swapmeet went over very well and yielded over \$ 700.00 in sales

**Recent donation of computer copper wound toroid's and miscellaneous parts:** Negotiations with Tacoma Metals have resulted in an offer to purchase this package. Recent metal thefts have resulted in more stringent rules for recyclers, and a formal letter of ownership is required to complete this sale. The Secretary has prepared the necessary letter.

**A motion was made, seconded and passed to provide the necessary documents for the sale of this surplus gear.**

*(continued)*

**Planning Committee Report:** Larry KD4VOM

The reorganized Planning Committee reported on its recent work to assist in the research and development of a Club current and three year program plan and budget. The group has developed a data collection computer fillable form to support the gathering of information necessary to understand and prioritize the Club's various operations and projects. Its intent is to provide the necessary planning and budget requirements to be aggregated and presented to the Board for their action in the development of a 2013 and three year budget.

**The Data Collection tool** has been developed and several "Project Action Plan and Budget submissions have been developed, including the recent Property Inventory Bar Code project.

**Randy WB4SBP** who has been instrumental in the development of our format presented a review of the form's use and application using the Barcode Project as an example.

*A copy of the Project Action Plan and Budget for the Barcode Project is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**Mike W7MWF** has been working in parallel to research and develop recent past year's financial income and expense data, and has taken a preliminary and incomplete look at the 2013 budget figures. The completed project is awaiting the development of the Facilities, HF and Repeater program Project Action Plans and Budgets development.

*A copy of Mike's presentation is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

The Board accepted the Planning Committee report and recommends continuing the process.

President Gary WG7X asked that a version of the program budget information be made available at a future Membership Meeting.

**Next Steps:**

- Convene with the HF and Repeater committee and interested stakeholders to assist in developing and capturing their project action plans and budget requests.
- Convene with the Facilities Management committee and interested stakeholders to assist in developing and capturing their project action plans and budget requests
- In view of the preliminary budget projections for 2013; the loss of Hamfest income, and the dwindling supply of Property Inven-

tory available for sale, it was agreed that the Club Membership needs to be informed and understand the financial realities and the need for raising funds.

**HF and Repeater Operations:****Repeater Operations:**

**W7DK 145.21** Repeater, Bates Channel 28 location: Status: Awaiting upgrade to Motorola Master II configuration

**W7DK 147.28** Repeater, Clubhouse: Status: Operational

**W7DK 147.38** Repeater, Crawford Mountain: On the bench awaiting installation work and return to service

**W7DK 440.625** Repeater, Clubhouse: Status: Operational

**IRLP** (147.28 Repeater) Operational

*Larry KD4VOM, on behalf of the ARES Roy Area Communications Net who currently holds a Memorandum of Agreement for use of the 147.38 repeater, noted that the Crawford Mountain repeater serves the South Pierce County area when operational, and suggested that the Roy Area Communications Net, most of whom are current members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, and many of whom have extensive experience in the installation, maintenance and operation of repeaters are willing to accept a donation of the repeater to their organization.*

**Discussion:** There followed an extensive discussion of the Club's repeater maintenance and operations. The Board agreed it was time to hold a meeting of all interested stakeholders to address the Club's repeater operations and make necessary changes. President Gary WG7X will arrange and chair the meeting.

This meeting should also produce a Repeater Project Action Plan and Budget to support the 2013 and three year budget exercise currently underway

**HF Operations:**

**WWARA:** Note was made of the recent decision by the Western Washington Repeater Association to begin coordinating DStar digital narrow band repeaters in the current FM Simplex 2 meter band.

*(continued)*

**Facilities Management:** Bruce Hanson WE7P

Bruce expects to present a facilities planning update within the next few months.

**Training:**

Next Technician Class is scheduled for this weekend, March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Hamfest:**

**RCT Hamfest:** No Change; The Bethel facility bill has not yet been received

**Emergency Operations Plan:**

**Larry Watson KD4VOM** reports that workload and other factors continue to delay getting the Club's Em-Comm plan underway.

**Salmon Run:**

**Larry KD4VOM** reported all but one Salmon Run Pledges have been received. This year's Salmon Run pledge drive has generated \$3,145.00 for Club operations.

**NEW BUSINESS:****HF System Antenna Switching System:** Al

N7OMS noted that work is already underway to establish an HF antenna/transceiver patch panel system in the HF room.

**A motion was made, but failed a second, to authorize funds up to 200.00 for the cables, connectors and related materials to complete the patch panel installation.**

During the discussion period, Glen KA7BOJ offered to donate the needed materials for the construction of the patch panel.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**Field Day:** Al N7OMS reminded all that we need to get moving on finding leadership for this year's Field Day. Al will not be managing Field Day this year, but is there to help this year's Field Day leadership.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Last Month's Contest Winners**

Tim K7TMW

Bob K7MXE

It was a virtual tie last month with two nearly simultaneous answers correctly identifying the call sign KN7JAL as being the original call sign of RCT Member Joe K7ZG.

## RCT General Meeting Notes

### 13 March 2013 Meeting Highlights

The 13 March General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. Vice President Casey WY7V called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

#### **Officers and board members present:**

Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasurer	Bob Purdom AD7LJ
Board	Al Ferguson N7OMS
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	James Mendenhall KE6WHN

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 7 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by Vice President Casey WY7V

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Guest and Self introductions were completed.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** None reported

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Utility Bills	Bank Statements
Newsletters	QSL Cards
Membership Renewals	QEX

**Treasurer:** The Field Day donation pig was circulated, the Club financial report can be found on the club website.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Training:** The next Technician's Class is scheduled for April 6/7.

#### **VE REPORT** by John AC7WW

Eight candidates attended the VE Session Tuesday March 12, 2013 at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse. Fifteen elements were graded with seven passed. Five new technicians joined the amateur service, one candidate passed element two and three to become a General Class operator. One candidate did not earn an initial license and one candidate failed to

upgrade. The team served candidates from Bellevue, Olalla, Port Orchard, Puyallup, Roy, Spanaway and Tacoma.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Joe, W7RQ	Steve, AD7VL
Leonard, KA7NWF	Dale, N3MO
Jan, K7HTU	Greg, KF7BAO
Jon, AD7AW	Rich, KK7VH
Stephen, AD7AB	

*The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday April 9th, 2013.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Membership:** Renewals were due 1 January, and will be delinquent 31 March. Those who have not renewed by then will not be in the annual Club Membership Roster Book/

Open House Hosts Sought: The Club is soliciting members to serve as Open House Hosts on Saturdays at the Clubhouse. Contact the Secretary if interested. Several Saturdays are open, check the website for a current schedule

**Mike and Key:** Thanks to those who helped cover our Club table at Mike and Key. The Property Management Team did very well turning excess equipment into club funds. Thanks to all who participated from lugging, to inventorying to selling.

**Field Day:** Al N7OMS reminded all that Field Day Planning should begin soon. Al will not be heading the Field Day up this year and we need several folks to step up and begin the planning process soon. There are plenty of experienced Field Day managers to help whomever wants to head up this year's Field Day exercise.

**Clubhouse Grounds Maintenance:** Bob Heselberg K7MXE, who has supported our grounds maintenance for many years, is retiring, and we need folks to step up to help keep the grass mowed and trimmed. If you can help, contact Bruce WE7P.

**Bark:** Mike W7WMF announced that the BARK is available for download on the W7DK.org website.

**PROGRAM:** Video, "Building a Quad Antenna"

## RCT General Meeting Notes

**HINTS AND KINKS:** None reported

**TUNING AND TRAFFIC:** None reported

**DOOR PRIZES:** A 2000 ARRL Handbook was won by Randy WB4SBP, and an Antenna Modeling book by Bill AD7QI.

**RAFFLE PRIZE:** There was no raffle prize tonight.

The Meeting was adjourned at: 08:40 pm.

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### 27 March 2013 Meeting Highlights

The 27 March General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. Vice President Casey WY7V called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

#### *Officers and board members present:*

Vice President	Casey Hicks WY7V
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Nick Winter K7MO
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	James Mendenhall KE6WHN

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by Vice President Casey WY7V

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Guest and Self introductions were completed; those with new calls were introduced.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** None reported

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Utility bills  
Bank Statements  
Newsletters  
Membership Renewals  
QEX

**TREASURER:** The Field Day donation pig was

circulated, the Club financial report can be found on the club website.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Training:** The next Technician's Class is scheduled for April 6/7. General Class: Stephen AD7AB is planning a General Class which will run about eight weeks, finishing up in July.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Membership:** Renewals were due 1 January, and will be delinquent 31 March. Those who have not renewed by then will not be in the annual Club Membership Roster Book.

**Open House Hosts Sought:** The Club is soliciting members to serve as Open House Hosts on Saturdays at the Clubhouse. Contact the Secretary if interested. Several Saturdays are open, check the website for a current schedule.

**Field Day:** All were reminded all that Field Day planning is overdue. Al N7OMS will not be heading the Field Day up this year and we need several folks to step up and begin the planning process soon. There are plenty of experienced Field Day managers to help whomever wants to head up this year's Field Day exercise.

**Clubhouse Grounds Maintenance:** Bob Heselberg K7MXE, who has supported our grounds maintenance for many years is retiring, and we need folks to step up to help keep the grass mowed and trimmed. If you can help, Contact Bruce WE7P.

**PROGRAM:** "The CHIRP Radio Programming Software" was presented by Mike W7WMF and Randy WB4SBP.

**HINTS AND KINKS:** None reported

**TUNING AND TRAFFIC:** None reported

**DOOR PRIZES:** There was no door prize this evening

**RAFFLE PRIZE:** There was no raffle prize tonight

The Meeting was adjourned at: 08:35 pm



## Around the Clubhouse Projects and Progress

This month's photo essay highlights the second phase of the installation of the new 6 Meter+ mast being installed on the north side of the clubhouse. In mid-March, after having let the concrete cure for over a month, a crew assembled to place the base and mast in position. Since all-hands there were lugging the mast from behind the garage to the antenna site, your intrepid photographer wasn't able to snap any pix of that onerous task.



Left - Rich KR7W & Bruce WE7P secure and level the base to the foundation

Below Left - Bruce WE7P torques the nuts under the watchful eyes of Randy WB4SPB and Bob K7MXE

Below Right - Attaching the 40 foot mast to the base





Left - Bruce and Bob perform a safety check on the hoisting cable before attempting to crank the tower to perpendicular.

Below - Bob at the winch, Randy encouraging him



Above Left— Randy gives the upright mast a professional eyeball evaluation and concurs that we got the thing pretty well plumb



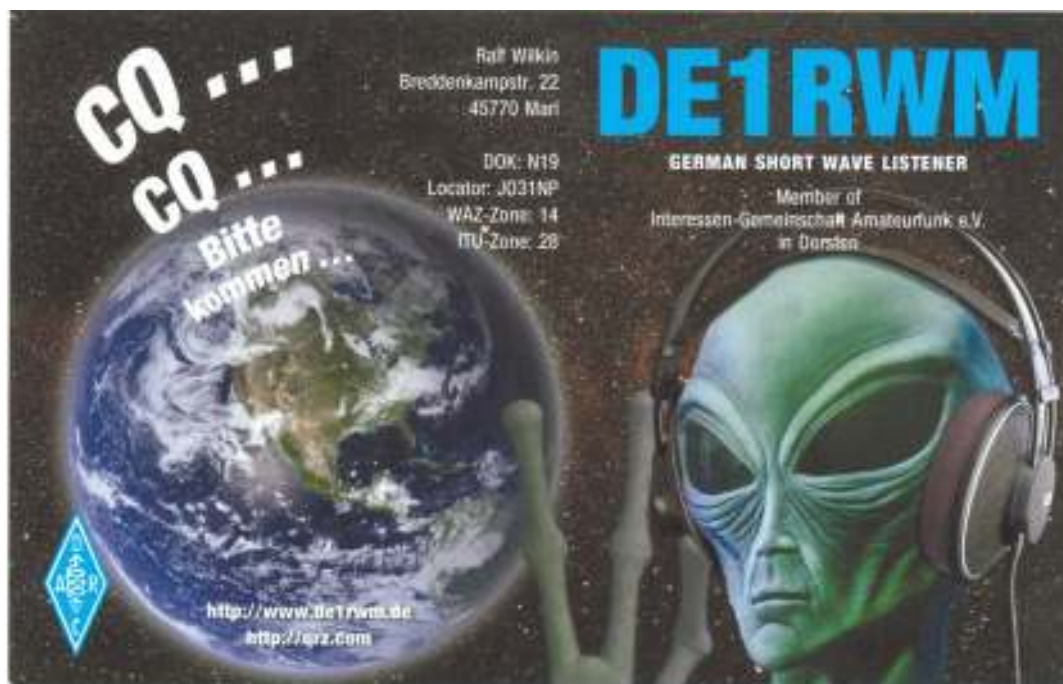
Above Right - The brain trust contemplates the malfunction with the sectional raising hoist. Solution underway!



**Operator's Wallpaper**

If you have any special, or cool, or unique, or simply beautiful QSL cards in your collection that you'd like to share, please scan (high resolution is preferred) and email to the Bark Editor [w7dk-news@earthlink.net](mailto:w7dk-news@earthlink.net).

In this month's issue of The Logger's Bark we're again featuring cards from the extensive library incoming QSL cards of RCT Member Harry N7DOE. Thanks Harry for your generosity in sharing these with us.





*The Radio Club of Tacoma's*  
**Logger's Bark**



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### Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to [wg7x @ w7dk.org](mailto:wg7x@w7dk.org)

Vice Pres: Casey Hicks WY7V email to [wy7v @ w7dk.org](mailto:wy7v@w7dk.org)

Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to [kd4vom @ w7dk.org](mailto:kd4vom@w7dk.org)

Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to [ad7lj @ w7dk.org](mailto:ad7lj@w7dk.org)

### 5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Ferguson, N7OMS email to [n7oms @ w7dk.org](mailto:n7oms@w7dk.org)

James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to [ke6whn @ w7dk.org](mailto:ke6whn@w7dk.org)

Glen Galati KA7BOJ email to [ka7boj @ w7dk.org](mailto:ka7boj@w7dk.org)

Nick Winter K7MO email to [k7mo @ w7dk.org](mailto:k7mo@w7dk.org)

Bruce Hanson WE7P email to [we7p @ w7dk.org](mailto:we7p@w7dk.org)

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### Logger's Bark Staff

Editor "Stop the Presses!!" Mike Finnie, W7MWF email to [w7dk-news @ earthlink.net](mailto:w7dk-news@earthlink.net)

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Send articles to: [w7dk-news @ earthlink.net](mailto:w7dk-news@earthlink.net) or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

**The Fine Print:** The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: [www.w7dk.org](http://www.w7dk.org). If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

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**Membership Info:** FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

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### Radio Club Repeaters

**Central Tacoma:** 147.280 + PL=103.5

**Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County):** 147.380 + PL=103.5

**Central Tacoma:** 440.625 + PL=103.5

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**Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website [w7dk.org](http://w7dk.org). Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.**

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***The Loggers Bark***  
**Radio Club of Tacoma**  
**PO Box 11188**  
**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**



## Upcoming RCT Events

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline:** Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .